

THE STATE OF IOWA 1915(b) PROGRAM

Project Name:	Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health
Project Initial Approval:	December 9, 1998
Project Renewal Approval:	March 1, 2001
Project Renewal Expiration:	February 28, 2003

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The State of Iowa operates a Medicaid Managed Care program under the authority of a 1915(b) waiver. The program entitled Iowa Plan for Behavioral Health was initially approved on December 9, 1998. The waiver integrates mental health care and substance abuse treatment, and combines two formerly approved waivers entitled the Mental Health Access Plan and the Iowa Managed Substance Abuse Care Plan.

The goals of the Iowa Plan are to minimize boundaries between mental health and substance abuse service delivery systems by locating responsibility for service authorization in a single contractor; eliminating service duplication and gaps through coordinated consumer-centered treatment planning; and requiring authorization of mental health services not solely on medical necessity, but on a framework incorporating clinical history and environmental factors.

HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

Enrollment is mandatory. Recipients are enrolled in a Statewide Prepaid Health Plan (PHP) responsible for assuring, arranging, monitoring, and reimbursing providers for mental health and substance abuse services. Enrolled recipients are restricted to receiving waiver services through the PHP, or another qualified provider to whom the recipient was referred by the PHP. Eligible recipients may not disenroll from the Iowa Plan. The State will disenroll Medicaid recipients whose eligibility changes to a Medicaid covered group excluded from the Iowa Plan.

BENEFIT PACKAGE

This 1915(b) waiver provides comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services through consumer-centered treatment planning.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

Iowa projects savings of \$3,478,419 during the two years of the renewal.

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Updated – 7/1/02